

Priests Deny Plotting; Attack Mayor

MGR. DUNN ADMITS WIRE TALK ABOUT 'A HUNDRED'

Tells Thompson His 'Offer' Was Bait to 'Phone-Tappers.

HITS ROCKEFELLER AND SAGE FUNDS

Prelate Accuses Them of Being in Move to Secularize Religious Societies.

The four Roman Catholic priests mentioned in the telephonic conversations read by Mayor Mitchell on Wednesday to prove that there was a conspiracy among a certain group within the Catholic Church and a few non-Catholics to interfere with government and pervert justice and to commit other crimes, took the stand before the Thompson committee yesterday and denied all the Mayor's charges.

In addition to the priests, who were Monsignor John J. Dunn, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York; Father Joseph P. Dineen, secretary to Bishop Hayes; Father William B. Farrell, rector of the Church of St. Peter and Paul, of Brooklyn, and the Rev. Dr. James J. Higgins, supervisor of Catholic Charities of the Long Island Diocese, Dr. Daniel C. Potter, a Baptist minister, also appeared to deny the charges made against him by the Mayor.

Almost every one of the thirty-five conversations testified to by the Mayor were branded by the priests and Dr. Potter as manufactured. Monsignor Dunn admitted he talked to Dr. Potter about "a hundred," implying, as he explained, dollars, in order to satisfy himself that the wires were being tapped. He said that he received proof of it the next day following the telephonic conversation when he was asked by the Strong committee why he had placed \$100 in a sealed envelope for Dr. Potter.

Blames Mayor and Standard Oil.

Monsignor Dunn denied that at any time there existed a conspiracy among certain priests to wreck the Mitchell administration, and come back with a counter charge against the Mayor, who, he said, was the head of the only conspiracy—one whose object was "to take God out of the heart of the little ones" instructed to the care of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish institutions.

Behind the Mayor in this alleged conspiracy, Monsignor Dunn charged, were the millions of the Standard Oil Company and the Sage Foundation, and all the power of the charity trusts.

And the story the priests told, together with the story of the Mayor, took one's memory far from New York City, with its skyscrapers and subways, back to a time when the ages-old question of Church and State was fought with two-handed swords and bucklers.

The first light touch given the three days' proceedings was afforded by Father Dineen, who looked more like a college football back than a cleric. Still in the twenties, the secretary to Bishop Hayes would not take the case seriously, and kept the crowd in roars with his wit.

Dineen Amuses Crowd.

It was largely the same crowd that laughed and laughed at the Mayor the day before. Yesterday it laughed with the priests and applauded the telling points of their testimony.

The examination of the priests was a little more friendly than that of the Mayor. Frank Moss, counsel to the committee, who grilled the Mayor when he finished his direct testimony, did little interrogating yesterday. He left practically the entire examination to Alfred J. Talley, counsel to Father Farrell.

While the priests were putting in their side of the case the rumor spread that Mayor Mitchell, who is a Roman Catholic, and his co-religionists would patch up their quarrel, which, to quote one who spoke of it, was a matter of "inter se different." When word of this was brought to the Mayor he said: "The rumor is untrue. The Police Department does not compromise with those suspected of crime. There will be criminal prosecutions of some of the priests and their associates, but just how, when or where has not yet been determined."

Mayor Stands Firm.

At the close of yesterday's session the reporters called on the Mayor and asked him if he had any statement to make. He said he had none. When told that the priests not only characterized most of the conversations as manufactured, but branded others as distorted, the Mayor said:

"When did you ever find a man accused of a crime who would admit the charges preferred against him?"

One reporter called his attention to

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NAVY SECRETS LOST IN MYSTERIOUS FIRE

Sailors Check Blaze That Threatens Navy Yard.

Secret experiments by government naval experts—experiments that were expected to go a long way toward preparing the navy and aviation service for any eventualities—were brought to a sudden conclusion last night by a fire of mysterious origin that destroyed practically all the apparatus being used for the work in the administration building at the Brooklyn navy yard.

Prompt work of sailors from the Oklahoma, the Nevada and other battleships, in conjunction with the city fire fighters, prevented the flames from spreading to other parts of the yard.

Admiral Nathaniel Usher, commandant of the yard has ordered an investigation to be made to-day in an effort to learn the cause of the fire.

A new gyroscopic stabilizer, reconstructed Edison batteries for submarines and a new type of powerful searchlight were the devices under construction that were destroyed. Months of labor will be necessary to replace them.

'EMBRYO GANGSTER,' 14, SUES FIRM FOR \$30,000

Picture So Labeled Taken of Boy at Play.

James Ryan, of 611 Eleventh Avenue, fourteen years old, has begun a suit for \$30,000 against the Survey Associates Inc., and the Russell Sage Foundation. He accuses them of using his picture with that of several other boys and calling him a delinquent.

Ryan says that four years ago he was playing on a North River pier with several other boys when a photographer asked the youngsters to pose for him. They did. The camera man promised to send copies to the subjects' mothers, but the first thing Jimmy Ryan saw of his picture was in a copy of "Boyhood and Lawlessness." His picture was labeled "An embryo gangster," and over the group picture was a caption reading, "These eleven-year-old delinquents are a challenge to the community."

Justice Hotchkiss appointed Thomas Ryan, Jimmy's father, guardian to prosecute the suit.

MAIL PROTEST NOTES IN VIGOROUS TERMS

U. S. Takes Firm Stand Toward Britain and France.

Washington, May 25.—Vigorous language, almost equalling that employed in the last communications to Germany on the submarine issue, is understood to characterize the notes delivered to the British and French embassies here yesterday protesting against interference with neutral mails on the high seas.

Outlines of these communications have been cabled to London and Paris, and the full text will be sent by mail. This is taken to mean that replies will be framed only on mature consideration.

The United States does not concede the right to even inspect first class mails in transit on the high seas, assuming that these do not include anything more than correspondence and parcels, and that the ships are not carrying contraband to the belligerents. The fact that a neutral vessel carrying mails between neutral countries is compelled to come into a belligerent port to comply with belligerent naval rules is held, does not remove the mail matter on board from the privileged character of mail on the high seas.

A resolution authorizing the transportation of mail to and from neutral ports on naval vessels and declaring that "any interference with our mails shall be resented by such ships with all power of the navy and of the ships' crews" was introduced to-day by Representative Taggart, of Massachusetts, and referred to committee.

WIFE STOPS TO TALK; SO HE'S IN HOSPITAL

Husband Fixing Dumbwaiter on 7th Floor—She Let Go Rope.

Mrs. Patrick Niland is one of those vivacious conversationalists who emphasize each and every remark with an appropriate gesture. Her husband, the superintendent of an apartment house at 121 St. Nicholas Avenue, evidently forgot this when he sent her to the basement yesterday to hold the rope of the dumbwaiter while he clambered into it on the seventh floor to repair its mechanism.

All was going well until Niland forty-four new citizens in the Yonkers army yesterday.

"The man who insults the flag and who threatens the government is guilty of high treason," said Justice Tompkins. They ought to be imprisoned for life or forced out of this country."

That his audience would welcome such judicial advice was indicated by the storm of applause that greeted these remarks.

LLOYD GEORGE CHOSEN TO END IRISH PROBLEM

Asquith Names Chief Aid to Negotiate Settlement

PREMIER MAKES HARMONY PLEA

Conferences Between Ministers, Redmond and Carson to Begin Soon.

[By Cable to The Tribune.] London, May 25.—David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, has been selected by Premier Asquith to negotiate a permanent settlement of all questions affecting the future government of Ireland.

This appointment, which is a big surprise to all outside of a small group in the government's confidence, gives Mr. Lloyd George a wonderful opportunity to strengthen his position. As Minister of Munitions he has made a record for speed, efficiency, cutting red tape and taking the shortest cut to reach his objective. His stand out general conscription against tremendous opposition. Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster leader, has been one of his strongest supporters, but he is also a close friend of John Redmond.

Since the beginning of the conscription fight he has always been classed as an opponent of the "wait and see" policy, his famous "too late" speech attracting great attention, as did his recent statement that "time is not Britain's ally."

Recently he has been the object of a bitter attack by the editor of "The Daily News." It was understood then that he was about to withdraw from the Cabinet, but the adoption of universal conscription caused him to reverse his decision. The Northcliffe press has since thrown all its strength to his support.

The fact that he is able to withdraw from his present post speaks well for his organizing ability, for it is only a year ago that Great Britain began manufacturing munitions on a scale any way near approaching the war's demands. He showed he was still strong with labor by settling the Welsh and Clyde strikes, and now he is tackling what outside of the actual winning of the war is freely admitted to be Britain's greatest problem, and if successful he will win not only the gratitude of the whole country, but any honors he may care to accept. If he fails, he will simply drop out of public life, according to general opinion.

It is certain that the choice was not made until after Premier Asquith had consulted Sir Edward Carson and Mr. Redmond. As a close friend of Sir Edward he will have more influence perhaps than any one else, and this is a valuable asset, for undoubtedly the greatest concessions must be made in that quarter.

How soon a formal conference can be arranged, and exactly what shape it will take is still unknown. It is understood that, besides John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, and Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster leader, the conference will include Herbert Samuel, the Home Secretary, who had much to do with framing the financial clauses of the Home Rule act.

Others mentioned are John Dillon and Joseph Devlin. It is asserted that the proceedings of the conference will be quite confidential and that the place of meeting will be Mr. Lloyd George's private room at the Ministry of Munitions in Whitehall.

Unanimity in Commons to Solve Irish Problem

London, May 25.—The House of Commons has rarely seen a demonstration of greater unity than was displayed

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GERMAN BLOWS CRUMPLE MORE VERDUN LINES

Trenches Near Douaumont and Quarry Retaken.

PUSH AHEAD FROM CUMIERES

French May Evacuate Le Mort Homme and Hill 304.

[By Cable to The Tribune.] London, May 25.—Further French defenses at Verdun crumpled to-day under the hammering of German blows. With Fort Douaumont again firmly gripped, the Germans turned their attention to the trenches on either side. There had fallen with the fort before General Nivelle's counter stroke on Tuesday. To-day they were recaptured, as were the quarries at Haudromont, in which the French had also established themselves.

West of the Meuse the struggle has grown in intensity. Their hold on the Douaumont ridge regained, the Germans have again concentrated on the reduction of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304, across the river. The French made three attempts to-day to recapture Cumieres, stormed night before last. Berlin says that all the attacks failed. The Germans also gained trenches in the neighborhood of the Haudromont wood.

Cumieres is important because it links the German lines east and west of the Meuse. In German hands it also helps prevent the flanking fire on troops operating on the east bank, which is the larger objective also in the capture of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304. Once these are taken, and with a wedge already driven in at Douaumont, the Germans can resume their frontal assaults on the main line of the fortress.

May Evacuate Le Mort Homme.

The Germans have already advanced south of Cumieres and are now striving to rout the French from the Caurettes wood. If they succeed the noose will be pulled tighter about Le Mort Homme. Already exposed to attack from three sides, it would place the Germans almost in the rear of the height. Evacuation by the French would then be almost necessary.

Indeed, military opinion in Paris is now generally agreed that evacuation of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304 cannot be much longer delayed. Both are outposts from the real first line of defense west of the Meuse—the Charnay ridge and their sacrifice would not jeopardize the safety of the fortress.

German shells for days have rendered both heights practically untenable. There is scarcely the vestige of a trench left on either, though by the marvelous concealment of their guns the French have managed to prevent the Germans from occupying them. The value of these positions has been chiefly in enflanking German posts on the left bank of the Meuse.

If the French withdraw from these hills, the Germans will be able to advance the attack west of the river to the same stage as at Douaumont. The Charnay ridge, on which is situated Fort Bourras, will be their objective, while by working to the southwest through Avocourt they will seek to flank this line and cut the only railway still serving Verdun.

Germans Take Gambling Chance.

Whether the Germans accomplish this, of course, depends upon how much strength they have left after the stupendous exertions of the past week. Their expenditure of shell alone has exceeded anything previously seen in the war. And, taken together with the extravagance of the Austrian artillery in the Tyrol, it is taken to mean one of two things. Either the Central Powers are gambling desperately to break the Allies' power of launching any offensive this year, or their own reserves are much greater than has

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U. S. MEDIATION PLAN OFFERED IN SENATE

Washington, May 25.—A resolution requesting the President, unless incompatible with public interest, to suggest to warring nations of Europe that the United States undertake mediation was introduced in the Senate to-day by Senator Lewis, of Illinois, to lie on the table for discussion later.

The resolution would authorize the President to propose that the belligerents declare a truce and that each of them select a neutral country as its representative on a board of arbitration thus created; each selected neutral would name one member of the board, over which the President or his representative would preside as referee. Under the plan each belligerent would present its demands or claims to the board, which would be authorized to arrive at an equitable adjustment.

WILSON TELLS TRUCE PLANS

He Will Intervene for Peace Only When All Agree.

[From The Tribune Bureau.] Washington, May 25.—President Wilson to-day made known the conditions on which he would consent to intervene as a mediator among the belligerent nations of Europe. He told callers at the White House that such intervention by any neutral could come only after the nations at war were ready to agree that the interests of all were to be conserved—in other words, that neither side was to gain a conclusive victory.

The President did not disclose any definite plan of action nor authorize a formal statement of his attitude. He called for an impression, however, that the President would entertain suggestions that he extend his good offices to the belligerents to bring about peace only when the conditions he outlined were likely of fulfillment.

Mr. Wilson's remarks were construed as probably forecasting what he would say here Saturday, addressing the League to Enforce Peace. The impression has been obtained in official circles that his remarks at that time would have an important bearing on the recent peace discussions in Berlin and London.

No Immediate Move in Prospect.

Mr. Wilson told his callers that there were many elements in the situation in Europe, all of which must be taken into account in consideration of peace proposals. While he is eager to see the conflict ended as soon as possible, the White House visitors were able to gather no impression that a move by the United States to bring it about is in immediate prospect, at least.

The publication of these views—the first definite declaration from the President—attracted immediate attention in the embassies and legations of the warring powers. In Teutonic quarters they are regarded as presenting a fair and reasonable basis for beginning negotiations. Among friends of the Allies a contrary view is held.

"President Wilson virtually announces that unless the Allies are satisfied with a draw there can be no peace," the Tribune was told. "Attempts to mediate on that basis would be futile. The Allies want peace as much as Germany does, but they do not want an inconclusive peace on any terms. Thinking people in the United States must feel the same way."

The German view is that recently outlined by the German Chancellor—that peace should be concluded on the basis of physical facts. These facts are that Germany holds large areas belonging to the Allies in Europe, while England, France and Japan hold German colonies in all parts of the world. The President's declaration that the interests of all the belligerents should be conserved is thought by the Germans to indicate his belief that the nations should assemble around a map and cancel these holdings against each other, with allowances to Germany for the excess value of the territory held by her armies.

Peace to Figure in Campaign.

The immediate response in German quarters to all the President's peace utterances is taken as an indication that the President's campaign for peace will win him the political support of many German-Americans and pacifists.

Germans here believe that many Americans of all parties are anxious to see the end of the war, and that if the President persists in efforts to bring peace he will gain many votes.

So far as is known, the President has no intention of actually offering his services until requested to do so by one of the belligerents. That has been his attitude since the beginning of the

WAITE, SMILING, TELLS HOW HE MURDERED PECKS

Politely Details Killing of Couple and Says He Fed Ground Glass to Wife's Aunt.

HE MARRIED FOR MONEY; DEATH SHORTENED ROUTE

Mother-in-law, His Best Friend, Succumbed Quickly—Husband Annoyingly Impervious to Bacilli—Poison Used.

Twelve fascinated jurors sat late in Justice Shearn's courtroom last night, listening to as weird a murder story as yellow-back ever held.

What they heard was Dr. Arthur Warren Waite's full and free confession to the murder of John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, his wealthy father-in-law; to the poisoning of his mother-in-law, and to the attempted murder of his wife's Lady Bountiful aunt.

It was the story of a psychological hybrid, half man, half boy—kindly, considerate and courteous gentleman at casual contact, but so astoundingly lacking in moral sense that the life of another, or the lives of many others, weighed not a whit against self-interest.

Waite a Smiling Witness.

The Dr. Waite who told the story was almost the same Dr. Waite whose personal charm made him so popular a few months ago in local tennis circles and in the homes of scores of friends. On the men who are to decide whether he goes from the courtroom to the electric chair or to an institution for the criminal insane, he turned his old ingenuous, disarming smile as, in shuddering detail, he recited his crimes.

Apparently he was at perfect ease. The tenseness of the situation served to speed his politely drawled answers no more than did the evident determination of the court to eliminate delay. When he did not catch one of the questions put by his lawyer, Walter R. Deuel, he murmured invariably an apologetic "Pardon!" And then, when he heard, it was a still more apologetic: "Oh, oh, yes!"

GERMANS IN EGYPT, LONDON REPORTS

Kaiser's Troops in Column Are Bombed at El-Arish.

London, May 26.—That German troops are with the enemy in Egypt is revealed for the first time in the British official report of operations in that country issued late last night. This report says:

"Since the enemy air attack on Port Said, the Royal Flying Corps in Egypt has given the enemy little rest. Four British machines have heavily bombed enemy advance posts. Forty bombs were dropped, resulting in buildings and a plant at El-Hamma being seriously damaged, and the water tanks at Rodasium being smashed. This will upset the whole plan of the enemy, as the destruction of his drilling plant at Jisraffa by our patrols, he had set great store on the Rodasium waterworks."

"It has now been learned that the column of troops which suffered by our bombing attack at El-Arish on May 18 were Germans. This probably explains the hasty retaliation by dropping bombs on Port Said civilians."

TRICKED, SAYS PASTOR WHO WED MRS. THAW

Gave Name as Florence Nesbit, Clifford as Virgil Montani.

[By Telegram to The Tribune.] Baltimore, May 25.—"I had no idea I was marrying Evelyn Thaw and 'Jack' Clifford," said the Rev. J. Edward Snyder, pastor of Emory Methodist Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, when asked regarding the secret wedding yesterday.

"If I had known who she was," Dr. Snyder began, and then stopped. His tone intimated there would have been no ceremony. "She gave her name as Florence Nesbit. The man said he was Virgil James Montani."

"When I asked if either had been divorced, she said she had been. She had no papers, but I was assured by Van Ness Harwood, of New York, who accompanied the couple, that she had obtained a decree."

"I was surprised to learn that it was the former Mrs. Thaw and Clifford whom I had married. She gave her age as thirty-one. She gave her address as 1111 Madison Avenue, New York. The machine plunged into the bay near shore, and Captain Cowan, although badly shaken up, had no difficulty in extricating himself from the aircraft, which was partly wrecked."

U. S. AVIATOR FALLS IN SEA

Captain Cowan Saves Self, but Loses Machine.

San Diego, Cal., May 25.—Captain Arthur S. Cowan, former commandant of the Army Aviation Training School here, fell fifty feet in a hydroaeroplane which he was piloting to-day.

The machine plunged into the bay near shore, and Captain Cowan, although badly shaken up, had no difficulty in extricating himself from the aircraft, which was partly wrecked.

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Looping the Loop Over London

An American girl flew across war-time London in a British military biplane. Interesting enough in itself—but to make it more interesting she looped the loop over Hyde Park.

Jane Anderson tells a colorful story in The Tribune Magazine next Sunday. Take the hair-raising flight yourself by the delightful means of reading her account. It's safer—and the only safe way to get the account to read is to speak to your newsdealer to-day. He will deliver your copy if you tell him you want it.

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